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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSE A. MUNIZ, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
CENTERS LLC, a limited liability  
company; CAL CARTAGE  
WAREHOUSING & TRANSLOADING  
LLC, a limited liability company; and  
DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-08326 HDV-PVCx

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER**

1 Plaintiff JOSE A. MUNIZ (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants NATIONAL  
2 DISTRIBUTION CENTERS LLC and CAL CARTAGE WAREHOUSING &  
3 TRANSLOADING LLC (“Defendants”) (collectively, the “Parties”) in the above-  
4 captioned matter hereby submit this joint stipulated protective order and agree to the  
5 following:

6 A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

7 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,  
8 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure  
9 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.  
10 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following  
11 Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer  
12 blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection  
13 it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items  
14 that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The  
15 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated  
16 Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal;  
17 Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the  
18 standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file  
19 material under seal.

20 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

21 This action is likely to involve personnel information regarding third parties who  
22 are not parties to this action, medical information regarding Plaintiff, confidential  
23 business information regarding Defendants and/or proprietary information for which  
24 special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than  
25 prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials  
26 and information consist of, among other things, personnel information regarding third  
27 parties who are not parties to this action, medical information regarding Plaintiff,  
28 confidential business information regarding Defendants’ business practices (including

information implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Action: the instant action.

2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained

1 (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are  
2 produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

3 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a  
4 matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to  
5 serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

6 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this  
7 Action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other  
8 outside Counsel.

9 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation,  
10 association, or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

11 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of  
12 a party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and  
13 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm  
14 which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

15 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,  
16 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
17 support staffs).

18 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
19 Discovery Material in this Action.

20 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation  
21 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
22 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and  
23 their employees and subcontractors.

24 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
25 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

26 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery  
27 Material from a Producing Party.

1                   3.     SCOPE

2                   The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
3 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted  
4 from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of  
5 Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or  
6 their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

7                   Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of  
8 the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

9                   4.     DURATION

10                  Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations  
11 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise  
12 in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the  
13 later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with or without prejudice;  
14 and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals,  
15 rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action, including the time limits for filing  
16 any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

17                  5.     DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

18                  5.1   Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for  
19 Protection.

20                  Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for  
21 protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific  
22 material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must  
23 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or  
24 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,  
25 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
26 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

27                  Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited.  
28 Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an

1 improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to  
2 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating  
3 Party to sanctions.

4 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that  
5 it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
6 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

7 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided  
8 in this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise  
9 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
10 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
11 produced.

12 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

13 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic  
14 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
15 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend  
16 "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that  
17 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page  
18 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected  
19 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

20 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for  
21 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has  
22 indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection  
23 and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be  
24 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it  
25 wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or  
26 portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the  
27 specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL legend" to  
28 each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material

1 on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the  
2 protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

3 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify  
4 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition  
5 all protected testimony.

6 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and  
7 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the  
8 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend  
9 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants  
10 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected  
11 portion(s).

12 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
13 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the  
14 Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon  
15 timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to  
16 assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

## 17 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

18 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
19 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s Scheduling  
20 Order.

21 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute  
22 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1, *et seq.*

23 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall  
24 be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper  
25 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)  
26 may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has  
27 waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to  
28



1 afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the  
2 Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

3 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material  
5 that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with  
6 this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such  
7 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
8 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving  
9 Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

10 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a  
11 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons  
12 authorized under this Order.

13 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless  
14 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a  
15 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL"  
16 only to:

17 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as  
18 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably  
19 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

20 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel)  
21 of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

22 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom  
23 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the  
24 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

25 (d) the court and its personnel;

26 (e) court reporters and their staff;



1 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional  
2 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have  
3 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

4 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a  
5 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

6 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the  
7 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party  
8 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they will  
9 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the  
10 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed  
11 by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition  
12 testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately  
13 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted  
14 under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

15 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,  
16 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

17 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED  
18 PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

19 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation  
20 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as  
21 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

22 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification  
23 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

24 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order  
25 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena  
26 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of  
27 this Stipulated Protective Order; and  
28

1 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be  
2 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

3 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served  
4 with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this  
5 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the  
6 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
7 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
8 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions  
9 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to  
10 disobey a lawful directive from another court.

11 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE  
12 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

13 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a  
14 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information  
15 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the  
16 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
17 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

18 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to  
19 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is  
20 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s  
21 confidential information, then the Party shall:

22 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party  
23 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement  
24 with a Non-Party;

25 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated  
26 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably  
27 specific description of the information requested; and  
28

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

#### 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

#### 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the

1 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or  
 2 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the  
 3 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to  
 4 the court.

## 5 12. MISCELLANEOUS

6 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of  
 7 any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

8 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this  
 9 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to  
 10 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this  
 11 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any  
 12 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

13 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
 14 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may  
 15 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the  
 16 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material  
 17 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in  
 18 the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

## 19 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

20 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4,  
 21 within 60 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party  
 22 must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As  
 23 used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,  
 24 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the  
 25 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the  
 26 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not  
 27 the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1)  
 28 identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned

1 or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,  
 2 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any  
 3 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to  
 4 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing  
 5 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert  
 6 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such  
 7 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or  
 8 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in  
 9 Section 4 (DURATION).

10 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all  
 11 appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or  
 12 monetary sanctions

13  
 14 **GOOD CAUSE BEING SHOWN BY THE PARTIES' STIPULATION, IT IS SO**  
 15 **ORDERED.**

16 Dated: December 14, 2023




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18 HON. PEDRO V. CASTILLO

19 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury  
 that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was  
 issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [date] in the case of *Jose A. Muniz v. National Distribution Centers LLC,*  
*et al*, Case No. 2:23-CV-08326 HDV-PVC. I agree to comply with and to be bound by  
 all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that  
 failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of  
 contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or  
 item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in  
 strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the  
 Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated  
 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this  
 action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name] of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my  
 California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings  
 related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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